

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04997 281412Z
ACTION SCSE-00

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R 281311Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5989

UNCLAS LA PAZ 4997

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJECT: ARRESTEE AND PRISONER SERVICES: FASCELL LETTER

REF: STATE 140195, PARA D

1. PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1977, CONSULAR OFFICIAL VISITED MALE PRISONERS IN LA PAZ AT LEAST ONCE AMONTH. MONTHLY ARREST REPORTS IN DEPARTMENT'S POSSESSION LIST DATES OF VISITS FOR EACH MONTH SINCE AUGUST OF 1975 AS: AUGUST 26, 1975, SEPTEMBER 29, 1975, OCTOBER 27, 1975, NOVEMBER 25, 1975, DECEMBER 22, 1975, JANUARY 22, 1976, FEBRUARY 12, 1976, MARCH 24, 1976, APRIL 22, 1976, MAY 18, 1976, JUNE 23, 1976, OCTOBER 28, 1976, NOVEMBER 9, 1976, DECEMBER 20, 1976. DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST 1976, THE CONSUL WAS ON HOME LEAVE AND DATES OF VISTS TO THE MEN'S PRISON WERE NOT RECORDED IN ARREST REPORTS, NOR WERE THEY IN THE SEPTEMBER ARREST REPORT. HOWEVER, A REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL FILES SHOWS THAT A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED MEN'S PRISON IN LA PAZ ON JULY 30, 1976, AUGUST 12, 1976 AND SEPTEMBER 9, 1976.

2. IN 1977, VISITS WERE MADE ON JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 24, AND LA PAZ 2652 LISTS THE DATE OF AT LEAST ONE VISIT TO EACH PRISONER DURING MARCH. LA PAZ 3336 AND 4417 COVER VISITS IN APRIL AND MAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04997 281412Z

3. EMBASSY WISHES STRESS THAT VISITS PRIOR TO MARCH 1977 WERE MADE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE OFTEN THAN INDICATED IN ABOVE PARAS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE RECORD OF DATES.

4. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF CONSUL MILBURN IN AUGUST, 1975, NO DATE BY DATE RECORD OF VISITS TO PRISONS BY CONOFF WERE KEPT.

BOLIVIAN CONSULAR EMPLOYEES, HOWEVER, ATTEST THAT VISITS WERE MADE SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH, OFTEN ONCE A WEEK.

5. EMBASSY ALSO WISHES NOTE THAT , WITH RESPECT TO ALL VISITS, CONSULAR OFFICER MAY NOT HAVE SEEN ALL, RPT ALL MALE (OR FEMALE) PRISONERS EACH TIME. PRISONERS WERE NOT REQUIRED TO SEE CONOFF IF THEY DID NOT WISH TO DO SO. HOWEVER, CONOFF'S PRESENCE WELL KNOWN AND IF A PRISONER WISHED TO SEE HIM THERE WAS NO PROBLEM IN MAKING CONTACT. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONOFF HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES IN SEEING ANY PARTICULAR PRISONER DURING A VISIT FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE, SUCH AS DELIVERING MAIL.

6. EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY "BOOK OF REGULATIONS" WHICH STATES THAT VISITS SHOULD BE MADE TO PRISONERS EVERY SIX WEEKS. ALL CONSULAR OFFICERS AT POST CONTACTED AND REPORT THAT NONE OF THEM SHOWED A MALE PRISONER A DOCUMENT WHICH STATED HOW OFTEN VISITS SHOULD BE MADE TO PRISONERS. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT THE "SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES HANDBOOK: PROTECTION OF AMERICAN NATIONALS ARRESTED, ON TRIAL, OR IMPRISONED" STATES THAT VISITS WILL BE MADE ON A MONTHLY BASIS UNLESS OTHERWISE JUSTIFIED. THIS EMBASSY'S CONSULAR OFFICERS VISIT EACH OF THE PRISONS IN LA PAZ ON AT LEAST A WEEKLY BASIS AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN SANTA CRUZ AND COCHABAMBA USUALLY VISIT THE PRISONS THERE WEEKLY. CONTACTS WITH PRISONERS ARE ALSO MADE AT COURT AND DURING PRISONERS' VISITS TO THE CONSUL'S OFFICE.

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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 04997 281412Z

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE NAME OF CONSULAR OFFICER AND MALE PRISONER(S) ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN INCIDENT IN ORDER TO CLARIFY SITUATION.

8. EMBASSY IS IN PROCESS OF COMPILING REPORT FOR CONGRESSMAN FASCELL'S SUBCOMMITTEE AND WILL SEND IT SOONEST.
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